

OHIO

OHIO

Republicans want Ohioans to believe that they're better off under unchecked GOP control of Washington.

President Donald Trump tweets that "Our Economy is setting records on virtually every front - Probably the best our country has ever done. Tremendous value created since the Election."¹ Speaker Ryan tells the press that "by just about any economic measure, the American people are better off now."²

But it is only the well-off who are weathering the rising costs and destructive consequences of the Republicans' reckless, special-interest first policies.

Health Care Costs Rising – 4,830,900 Ohioans with pre-existing conditions could lose key protections under Republicans' lawsuit to strike down the ACA's protections for people with pre-existing conditions.³ Republicans' health care sabotage drove the average 2018 premium for the silver benchmark plan for a 40-year-old in the ACA Marketplace in Ohio up by 35%, compared to 2017.⁴

Prescription Drug Prices Increasing – While President Trump backed down from his promise to have Medicare negotiate down prescription drug prices, 12 of the top 20 most costly drugs for Medicare Part D increased in price in the first year of the Trump Administration.⁵ In the first seven months of 2018 alone, there were 4,412 brand-name drug price increases and 46 price cuts, a ratio of 96-to-1.⁶

Tax Scam Failing Families – 1,020,130 Ohio taxpayers will see NO tax benefit or will suffer a tax hike by 2019, while the wealthiest 1 percent of Ohioans receive a total of over **\$2.7 million**.⁷

Real Wages Falling – Since President Trump's inauguration in January 2017 to August 2018, real average hourly wages in Ohio have fallen 0.6 percent.⁸

Unmet Infrastructure Needs – Due to the lack of federal investment, ASCE concludes Ohio has significant infrastructure needs including an estimated \$12.2 billion to address failing drinking water infrastructure and \$14.6 billion for wastewater needs in the state.⁹

Republicans are trying to focus attention on the stock market and the wealth of big corporations. Democrats are listening to the voices and the stories of the hard-working Americans that the President and the GOP Congress have long ignored.

Democrats' agenda is For The People: lower your health care costs and prescription drug prices, increase your pay through strong economic growth by rebuilding America, and clean up corruption to make Washington work for you.

HEALTH COSTS RISING

President Trump promised that under Republican leadership, health care would be “a lot less expensive for you...”¹⁰

But the GOP’s relentless attacks on Americans’ health care are threatening the affordable coverage of millions with pre-existing conditions, hiking the cost of prescription drugs and raising premiums for everybody.

Republicans’ health care sabotage drove the average 2018 premium for the silver benchmark plan for a 40-year-old in the ACA Marketplace in Ohio up by 35%, compared to 2017.¹¹

Under Republicans’ lawsuit to strike down the ACA’s protections for people with pre-existing conditions:

- **4,830,900 Ohioans with pre-existing conditions** could lose key protections.¹²
- **Nearly 2.4 million women and girls in Ohio** with pre-existing conditions would lose protections.¹³
- **Nearly 200,000 pregnant Ohio women** risk losing their coverage.¹⁴
- Insurers could deny coverage outright or impose massive surcharges on people with pre-existing conditions, such as up to:¹⁵
 - \$4,270 for asthma;
 - \$5,510 for diabetes;
 - \$17,060 for pregnancy;
 - \$26,180 for rheumatoid arthritis;
 - \$57,090 for acute myocardial infarction (heart attack);
 - \$140,510 for metastatic cancer.

If House Republicans had succeeded in having the American Health Care Act, their House-passed Trumpcare legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act, signed into law:

- 539,700 Ohioans would have lost coverage under Trumpcare by 2026.¹⁶
- 360,000 Ohioans with Medicaid would have lost coverage.¹⁷
- 8,700 veterans in Ohio would have lost their Medicaid coverage.¹⁸
- Out-of-pocket health costs for older Ohioans could have increased by as much as \$5,223 a year by 2020, due to Trumpcare imposing what the AARP calls an “age tax” by allowing insurers to charge people over age 50 five times more.¹⁹
- The negative economic impact of the American Health Care Act would have caused 81,385 Ohioans to lose their jobs by 2022.²⁰

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS SOARING

President Trump once declared that big pharmaceutical companies are “getting away with murder”²¹ and that “we’re going to negotiate like crazy”²² on Medicare Part D prescription drug prices.

But when he unveiled his agenda in May 2018, President Trump backed down from his promise to enable Medicare Part D to negotiate down drug prices – and Big Pharma stocks surged.²³ The GOP tax law even handed Big Pharma massive tax breaks that have funded more than \$50 billion in stock buybacks to enrich top investors and executives.²⁴

Now Ohio seniors and families are stuck with soaring prescription drug costs:

- In the first seven months since passage of the GOP Tax scam, an investigation by the Associated Press found 4,412 brand-name drug price increases and 46 price cuts, a ratio of 96-to-1.²⁵
- 16 of the top 20 best-selling drugs in the United States increased significantly in price in the first year of the Trump Administration, mostly by double digits.²⁶
- 12 of the top 20 most costly drugs for Medicare Part D increased in price in the first year of the Trump Administration.²⁷

TAX SCAM FAILING FAMILIES

In selling Republicans' tax bill, President Trump claimed it “would likely give the typical American household a \$4,000 pay raise.”²⁸

In practice, however, the benefits of the new tax bill were designed to flow overwhelmingly to big corporations and the wealthiest 1 percent:

- **1,020,130 Ohio taxpayers** will see NO tax benefit or will suffer a tax hike by 2019, while the wealthiest 1 percent of Ohioans received a total of over **\$2.7 million**.²⁹
- **2,138,330 Ohio taxpayers** will see NO tax benefit or will suffer a tax hike by 2027.³⁰

REAL WAGES STAGNATING

President Trump frequently celebrates “another great day for the Stock Market. Consumer Confidence is at Record High.”³¹

But in the 19 months after President Trump's inauguration in January 2017, **real average hourly wages in Ohio fell 0.6%.**³²

- Inflation has **surged 2.1%** in the Midwest from August 2017 to August 2018.³³
- As of the end of August, **the cost of gas and fuel increased 19.4%** in a year for the Midwest.³⁴
- As of August 2018, **overall transportation costs are up 6.3%** from a year prior in the Midwest.³⁵
- Food prices in the Midwest are surging, with the **price of a dozen eggs up 36%** over the past year.³⁶

American workers face new obstacles under Republican control of Washington:

- As of October 9, 2018, there have been **11,358 WARN notices of plant closings and mass layoffs** in Ohio since President Trump took office.³⁷
- **\$3.2 billion in state exports are threatened** by China's retaliatory tariffs in Ohio, including nearly \$615 million in soybean exports.³⁸
- 89% of Ohio's exporters are small and medium-sized businesses.³⁹

Republicans continue to leave behind students, families and millennials with huge loan burdens:

- Total outstanding student loan debt balance in Ohio: **nearly \$58 billion**.⁴⁰
- Average student debt for students at public and private 4-year institutions in Ohio: **\$30,629**.⁴¹
- Share of students at public and private 4-year institutions in Ohio with debt: **62%**.⁴²

UNMET INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

In 2016, President Trump told Ohioans, “massive portions of our country are in a state of disrepair. It’s time to rebuild America.”⁴³

However, he and the Republican Congress have refused to bring forward meaningful legislation to address the massive infrastructure backlog in the United States.

The GOP’s refusal to make good on this promise to rebuild America’s broken infrastructure hurts Ohio families, endangers public health, and weakens Ohio’s ability to compete in the global marketplace.

- Driving on roads in need of repair in Ohio costs each driver **\$475 per year**.⁴⁴
- **362 dams** are considered to be high-hazard potential and more than **1,900 bridges** are rated structurally deficient.⁴⁵
- Drinking water infrastructure needs in Ohio are estimated to be **\$12.2 billion** over the next 20 years.⁴⁶
- Wastewater infrastructure needs are estimated to be **\$14.58 billion** over the next 20 years.⁴⁷
- Ohio schools have an estimated capital expenditure gap of **\$683 million**.⁴⁸

- ¹ President Donald Trump tweet, August 24, 2018, <https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/1032931711439589376?lang=en>
- ² Speaker Ryan, "Better Off Now: Speaker Ryan's Remarks to the Economic Club of Washington, D.C.," July 12, 2018, <https://www.speaker.gov/press-release/better-now-speaker-ryan-s-remarks-economic-club-washington-dc>
- ³ Center for American Progress, "Number of Americans with Pre-Existing Conditions by Congressional District," April 2017
- ⁴ "Marketplace Average Benchmark Premiums" The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, <https://www.democraticleader.gov/newsroom/10918/>
- ⁵ "Skyrocketing Drug Prices: Year One of the Trump Administration" Democratic Staff Report, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, May 11, 2018, <https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/Skyrocketing%20Drug%20Prices-Year%20One%20of%20the%20Trump%20Administration.pdf>
- ⁶ Associated Press, "AP investigation: Drug prices going up despite Trump promise," September 24, 2018, <https://apnews.com/b28338b7c91c4174ad5fad682138520d>
- ⁷ Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, "The Final Trump-GOP Tax Plan: National and 50-State Estimates for 2019 & 2027," <https://itep.org/finalgop-trumpbill/>
- ⁸ Economic Snapshot of the States," Joint Economic Committee Democrats, September 21, 2018 https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/eb68071e-76a3-457c-8563-5efcab3a9a8d/september-2018-state-economic-snapshots.pdf
- ⁹ American Society of Civil Engineers, "2017 Infrastructure Report Card," <https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/state-item/ohio/>
- ¹⁰ Donald Trump presidential campaign rally, October 19, 2015, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJ66dV-dGuk&feature=youtu.be&t=27m15s>
- ¹¹ "Marketplace Average Benchmark Premiums" The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, <https://www.democraticleader.gov/newsroom/10918/>
- ¹² Center for American Progress, "Number of Americans with Pre-Existing Conditions by Congressional District," April 2017
- ¹³ Center for American Progress, "Moving Backward: Efforts to Undo Pre-Existing Condition Protections Put Millions of Women and Girls at Risk," June 21, 2018, <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/news/2018/06/21/452643/moving-backward/>
- ¹⁴ Center for American Progress, "Moving Backward: Efforts to Undo Pre-Existing Condition Protections Put Millions of Women and Girls at Risk," June 21, 2018, <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/news/2018/06/21/452643/moving-backward/>
- ¹⁵ Center for American Progress, "Latest ACA Repeal Plan Would Explode Premiums for People with Pre-Existing Conditions," April 20, 2017, <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/healthcare/news/2017/04/20/430858/latest-aca-repeal-plan-explode-premiums-people-pre-existing-conditions/>
- ¹⁶ Center for American Progress, "CBO-Derived Coverage Losses by State and Congressional District," May 25, 2017, <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/healthcare/news/2017/05/25/433017/cbo-derived-coverage-losses-state-congressional-district/>
- ¹⁷ Center for American Progress, "CBO-Derived Coverage Losses by State and Congressional District," May 25, 2017, <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/healthcare/news/2017/05/25/433017/cbo-derived-coverage-losses-state-congressional-district/>
- ¹⁸ Center for American Progress, "The Impact of the AHAC on Veterans: State-by-State Breakdown," June 22, 2017, <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/poverty/news/2017/06/22/434928/impact-ahca-veterans-state-state-breakdown/>
- ¹⁹ Center for American Progress, "The Impact of the House ACA Repeal Bill on Enrollees' Costs," March 16, 2017, <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/healthcare/reports/2017/03/16/428418/impact-house-aca-repeal-bill-enrollees-costs/>
- ²⁰ Economic Policy Institute, "How Many Jobs Could the AHCA Cost Your State? The AHCA's Drag on Potential Job Growth," March 24, 2017, <https://www.epi.org/publication/how-many-jobs-could-the-ahca-cost-your-state/>
- ²¹ Politico, "Trump says drug industry 'getting away with murder,'" January 11, 2017, <https://www.politico.com/story/2017/01/trump-press-conference-drug-industry-233475>
- ²² NY Mag, "Trump Has Now Broken Every One of His Economic Populist Promises," May 11, 2018, <http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2018/05/trump-broken-every-populist-campaign-promise-prescription-drugs-infrastructure.html>
- ²³ Wall Street Journal, "Trump's Plan to Cut Drug Prices Leaves Industry Relieved," May 11, 2018, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/trump-unveils-proposals-to-slash-prescription-drug-prices-1526064902>
- ²⁴ Axios, "Pharma's \$50 billion tax windfall for investors," February 22, 2018, <https://www.axios.com/pharma-share-buyback-tax-reform-40a30b93-6149-4c67-bd65-cd05ee814215.html>
- ²⁵ Associated Press, "AP investigation: Drug prices going up despite Trump promise," September 24, 2018, <https://apnews.com/b28338b7c91c4174ad5fad682138520d>
- ²⁶ "Skyrocketing Drug Prices: Year One of the Trump Administration" Democratic Staff Report, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, May 11, 2018, <https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/Skyrocketing%20Drug%20Prices-Year%20One%20of%20the%20Trump%20Administration.pdf>
- ²⁷ "Skyrocketing Drug Prices: Year One of the Trump Administration" Democratic Staff Report, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, May 11, 2018, <https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/Skyrocketing%20Drug%20Prices-Year%20One%20of%20the%20Trump%20Administration.pdf>
- ²⁸ FOX Business, Twitter Post, October 19, 2017, 8:40 p.m. <https://twitter.com/FoxBusiness/status/921219426875203584>
- ²⁹ Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, "The Final Trump-GOP Tax Plan: National and 50-State Estimates for 2019 & 2027," <https://itep.org/finalgop-trumpbill/>
- ³⁰ Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, "The Final Trump-GOP Tax Plan: National and 50-State Estimates for 2019 & 2027," <https://itep.org/finalgop-trumpbill/>
- ³¹ Bloomberg, "It's been X days since Trump last tweeted about the markets and the economy," Tweet Tracker, <https://www.bloomberg.com/features/trump-tweets-market/>
- ³² Economic Snapshot of the States," Joint Economic Committee Democrats, September 21, 2018 https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/eb68071e-76a3-457c-8563-5efcab3a9a8d/september-2018-state-economic-snapshots.pdf
- ³³ BLS, "Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region - August 2018" <https://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/cpi-summary/ro5xg01a.htm>
- ³⁴ BLS, "Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region - August 2018" <https://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/cpi-summary/ro5xg01a.htm>
- ³⁵ BLS, "Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region - August 2018" <https://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/cpi-summary/ro5xg01a.htm>
- ³⁶ BLS, "Average Retail Food and Energy Prices, U.S. City Average and Midwest Region," https://www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic/data/AverageRetailFoodAndEnergyPrices_USandMidwest_Table.htm
- ³⁷ Ohio Department of Job and Family Services WARN Notices, Current Public Notices of Layoffs and Closures, <http://jfs.ohio.gov/warn/current.stm>
- ³⁸ US Chamber of Commerce Trade Works. Tariffs Don't. https://www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/tariff_data/one_pagers/oh.pdf
- ³⁹ US Chamber of Commerce Ohio Report, <https://www.uschamber.com/tradeworksforus#state-OH>
- ⁴⁰ Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, "50 state snapshot of student debt," October 2017, https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb_student-loans_50-state-snapshot_complaints.pdf
- ⁴¹ The Institute for College Access and Success, "Project on Student Debt, State by State Data," https://ticas.org/posd/map-state-data#overlay=posd/state_data/2018/oh
- ⁴² The Institute for College Access and Success, "Project on Student Debt, State by State Data," https://ticas.org/posd/map-state-data#overlay=posd/state_data/2018/oh
- ⁴³ The American Presidency Project, "Donald J. Trump Remarks at the Cleveland Arts and Social Sciences Academy in Cleveland, Ohio," September 8, 2016, <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=119195>
- ⁴⁴ American Society of Civil Engineers, "2017 Infrastructure Report Card," <https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/state-item/ohio/>
- ⁴⁵ American Society of Civil Engineers, "2017 Infrastructure Report Card," <https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/state-item/ohio/>
- ⁴⁶ American Society of Civil Engineers, "2017 Infrastructure Report Card," <https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/state-item/ohio/>
- ⁴⁷ American Society of Civil Engineers, "2017 Infrastructure Report Card," <https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/state-item/ohio/>
- ⁴⁸ American Society of Civil Engineers, "2017 Infrastructure Report Card," <https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/state-item/ohio/>